

Library of Michigan

Department of History, Arts and
Libraries

TIMELY TOPICS LEGISLATIVE AND STATE EMPLOYEE SERVICES NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2008

THIS ISSUE: H₂UH-OH?

<http://michigan.gov/lmtimelytopics>

Welcome

Inspired by Michigan's recent Water Week the Library of Michigan's Legislative team would like to highlight water issues in our fair state. Cheers!



Water Laws

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency enforces the Clean Water Act and many other regulations that affect the cleanliness of our nation's waters. See <http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/laws/index.html> for a list of environmental laws.

Water related laws pertinent to Michigan are found at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&sid=036723a68e6de0c1f04c9339b2f768ce&rgn=div8&view=text&node=40:24.0.1.3.27.8.17.1&idno=40>

Statistics and Fun Facts

Some not so trivial things to know about the Great Lakes, statistically speaking, are logged by the Great Lakes Information Network (GLIN) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at <http://coastwatch.glerl.noaa.gov/statistic>

Did you know that the maximum depth of Lake Superior is 1,332 ft vs. Erie's 210 ft; and Lake Superior has 2,726 miles of shoreline?

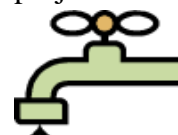
GLIN offers even more at <http://great-lakes.net>, including free and low cost lesson plans and materials that can be used by teachers.

Water Conservation

The Great Lakes Commission, based in Ann Arbor, has information on developing a water conservation toolkit on its pages at <http://www.glc.org/wateruse/conservation/dir.html>. It includes a resource directory, briefing paper and case studies.

The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation supplies much-needed guidelines for best practices related to non-agricultural irrigation. See <http://www.michiganturfgrass.org/water-59>.

Those interested in developing a local program related to water conservation should visit the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) page on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10366_37984_37985-125326--,00.html) where they can find a list of current grant projects and the required forms for new grants. The DNR also has some practical water-saving suggestions for the average Joe at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/CIS_EO_GLM_Water_conservation_156170_7.pdf



Find water use and divergence tracking by the Michigan Depts. of Agriculture (MDA) and Environmental Quality (DEQ) at http://www.michigan.gov/mda/0,1607,7-125-1567_1599_29980---,00.html

Pollution

DEQ keeps everyone a click away from information and contacts related to Dioxin, including recent contaminations in Michigan.



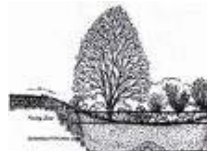
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Go to its links at

http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3307_29693_21234---,00.html

'Unpollution'

Rain gardens are a popular innovation for keeping pollutants out of rivers and streams. Rain Gardens of West Michigan, at <http://www.raingardens.org/Index.php> has general information on the process as well as some helpful hints for the home owner.



Ipswich, Massachusetts offers some demonstration projects, including rain gardens, for water wise communities at <http://www.ipswichriver.org/waterwise/tool17.htm>

DEQ also 'provides assistance to businesses, institutions and the public to improve the environment and save money by adopting the three "R's" reduce, reuse and recycle' with an eye to prevention. See their links at <http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3585---,00.html>

DEQ's Land and Water Management Division promotes the best use of resources for 'social and economic benefits while protecting associated resource values, property rights, the environment, and public health and safety.' See http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,1607,7-135-3306_32341---,00.html



From UpNorth Memories - Don Harrison's Photostream*

Things Angler's Need to Know

Start with DNR's 2008 Fishing Guide: <http://www.mi.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364-188598-,00.html>

DNR warning to anglers and boaters on how to avoid spreading fish diseases: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10364-160949--,00.html>

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service provides opportunities for responsible fishing:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/Fisheries/v-publicuse.htm>

Keeping Current

InfoTrac Custom Newspapers

http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/lom_accessmich?db=SP02

Use this MeL.org database to track hot issues in the news! Here are just a few of the most current results from a keyword search for "'great lakes' and legislation".

"Is Wisconsin a winner in the Great Lakes Water Compact? Lawmakers are pleased, environmentalists a little less so." The Capital Times (Madison, WI) (May 28, 2008): 16.

"Great Lakes bills differ on groundwater use LEGISLATURE." Detroit Free Press (Detroit, MI) (May 15, 2008): NA.

"Congress OKs first ballast-water treatment bill; Legislation contains world's most stringent standards.(National)." The Grand Rapids Press (Grand Rapids, MI) (April 26, 2008): A5.

"Lakes compact languishes in Ohio Grendell objections slow statelegislation.(National)." The Plain Dealer (Cleveland, OH) (April 6, 2008): A1.

Blogs, anyone?

Blogs can be an interesting way to keep up with the debate! Check out these water-specific examples:

All Things Wet and Legal in the Great Lakes Region by Professor Noah Hall

<http://www.greatlakeslaw.org/blog>

Follow discussions on bottled water and other fresh water issues through *WaterWired* - http://aquadoc.typepad.com/waterwired/bottled_water/index.html

American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Water Blog - <http://awramedia.org/mainblog/>

*<http://www.flickr.com/photos/upnorthmemories/>